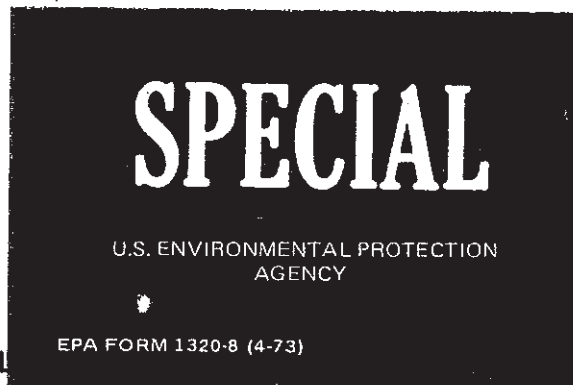


TO: 6E - Lead

DATE: 4/20/87

6E
6W *Coordinate*

*Oscar - prepare your
input for inclusion
in reply prepared
by 6E*



CONGRESSIONAL

Congressional Inquiry

PLEASE EXPEDITE

*June
4/21*

INSTRUCTIONS: PREPARE FINAL FOR SIGNATURE OF: Robert E. Layton Jr., P. E.
Regional Administrator

RETURN TO BARBARA GOETZ BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS:

4/24/87
Film

SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
37TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

1524 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-7742

DISTRICT OFFICES:
3649 LEOPARD SUITE 510
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78408
512-883-5868

3505 BOCA CHICA BOULEVARD, SUITE 438
BROWNSVILLE, TX 78521
512-541-1242

4

701522

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND FACILITIES
SEAPOW AND STRATEGIC AND
CRITICAL MATERIALS

MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
MERCHANT MARINE
PANAMA CANAL AND THE
OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL

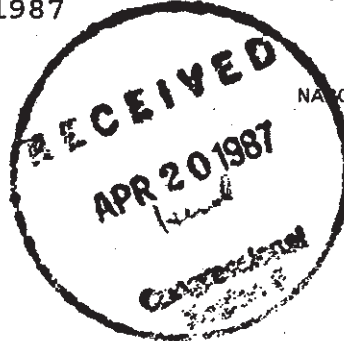
*R6
K3
W
de K
LF*

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 1987



The Honorable Lee M. Thomas
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am writing to express my concern about the aquifer exemption permit filed by Uranium Resources, Inc. of Dallas for the purpose of conducting in situ uranium mining at the Kingsville Dome project in Kleberg County Texas.

I ask that the application submitted by Uranium Resources, Inc. (URI) be carefully scrutinized to determine the environmental impact of the proposed project. The permit should only be granted if verifiable and concrete assurances can be made that no harm will be done to the Kingsville and Kleberg County groundwater supplies.

Water is a scarce and valuable resource in South Texas. I believe that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must be extremely cautious in approving any permit for a project which involves contamination of the only dependable source of drinking water in the Kleberg County area without a guarantee of restoration to the original water quality.

The potential for ground and surface water pollution, as well as the need for great quantities of water in a water scarce region, poses serious questions about the advisability of approving the proposed URI exemption permit. I urge the EPA to approve URI's application only if the Kleberg County area groundwater supply is guaranteed protection from contamination.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I have received from a Kleberg County official. I hope that you will give it every consideration.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Uranium Resources, Inc. permit applications. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Solomon P. Ortiz
Solomon P. Ortiz
Member of Congress



se of
EO L. LOMAS
ity Commissioner
Precinct 4



518 N. 8th
Phone: 592-5451

COUNTY of KLEBERG
KINGSVILLE, TEXAS

April 7, 1987

Honorable Solomon Ortiz
Congress of the United States
27th District, Texas

Dear Congressman Ortiz,

On behalf of the Kleberg County Citizens for the Protection of the Environment, I am asking for your assistance in inquiring about the status of an aquifer exemption permit filed with the Environmental Protection Agency by Uranium Resources Incorporated for in-situ uranium mining operations in Kleberg County Texas.

We understand that the permit application goes to the EPA office to Washington for final review.

Our greatest concern with the permit requested by Uranium Resources Inc. is the restoration of our only natural underground water supply. Regardless of safeguards proposed as theory or proposed on the basis that restoration can be achieved in the laboratory, there are no guarantees that the variables tested are inclusive in achieving water protection and restoration or conclusive that water contamination problems will not occur.

What we do know is that the uranium industry as a whole has a poor history in the restoration of ground water. This means that they have had to restore to amended levels or have requested extensions of restoration time. At the same time water remains contaminated or is depleted beyond normal usage due to poor planning and poor technology. Water is a precious natural source, essential for our survival and cannot be and should not be treated in such a haphazard way. We are concerned that the water URT will be using is our only natural water source. If they could demonstrate water restoration on site prior to mining uranium it would

facilitate protection of our sole source aquifer. Presently they are only mandated to restore the water concurrently as they mine.

HEARING EXAMINER

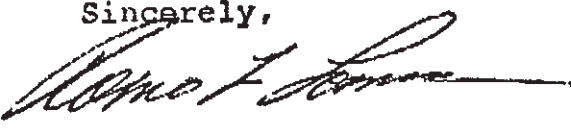
The Texas Water Commission staff after a series of hearings recommended an on-site restoration demonstration before mining. The decision for an on-site restoration demonstration before mining was overturned by the three member Water Commission for economic reasons only. Our only regret is that the people of Kleberg County, after gathering over five-thousand signatures against the mining of uranium in our community, and after pursuing the only avenue for input into the system by calling for a public hearing, did not truly have a voice and were not represented in the final decision by the Texas Water Commission.

We would not be faced with uncertainty at this time if the voice of the people in our community had been considered. There are local economic entities, however, that pressed otherwise.

In the final analysis, I can only quote George Bancroft by saying "The best government rests on the people, and not on the few, on persons and not on property, on the free development of public opinion and not on authority."

Thank you for any assistance you can give us.

Sincerely,



Romeo L. Lomas